

C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

1. A method for streaming media data by a streaming system which contains at least a Stream Server resided on a server system for reading and sending media data in parallel to a Media Player, the Media Player residing on a client system for receiving and rendering media data in parallel and a Stream Server Portal for preparing streaming, whereby media data is stored in a datastore, comprising at least the steps of:

receiving address information of the media data to be streamed by the Stream Server Portal;

selecting suitable Stream Server for the Media Player by the Stream Server Portal;

initiating transfer of the media data from the datastore to a server system on which the Stream Server selected by the Stream Server Portal is installed;

generating streaming meta data containing at least address information of the media data stored in the server system selected by the Stream Server Portal and address information of the Stream Server; and

passing the streaming meta data to the Media Player.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the address information of the media data to be streamed is provided by an application or program or by the Media Player.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the address information additionally includes information relating at least one of: the type of the Media Player/Stream Server and security information and client system information.
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4. The method of claim 1, wherein the Stream Server Portal selects a suitable Stream Server based on the address information provided by the application.
- 10 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step for initiating transfer of the media data from the data store to the Stream Server selected by the Stream Server Portal is accomplished only if the media data to be streamed is not already stored on a storage media of the Stream Server selected by the Stream Server Portal.
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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step for initiating transfer of the media data from the data store to the Stream Server selected by the Stream Server Portal is not accomplished if the media data to be streamed are stored on the storage media of the Stream Server selected by the Stream Server Portal and the data integrity between of the media stored on the storage media and the datastore is given.
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7. The method of claim 6, wherein any update of the media data of the datastore stored in the storage media of the Stream Server initiates a file transfer of the updated media data from the datastore to the storage media of the Stream Server.
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8. The method of claim 1, wherein the streaming meta data is passed from the Stream Server via the Stream Server Portal to the application or Programm.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the streaming meta data is passed from the Streamer Server to the Media Player directly.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the storage media is a cache.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step for initiating transfer of the media data is accomplished by an additional separate Stream Server Controller allocated to each Stream Server, whereby the Stream Server Controller and the Stream Server are installed on the same server system.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step for generating the streaming meta data is accomplished by the separate Stream Server Controller.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step for generating the streaming meta data is accomplished by the Stream Server.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein transfer of the media data is carried out via File Transfer Protocol.
15. The method of claim 1, wherein the datastore is installed on a server system different from the Stream Server system.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the Media Player initiates streaming of the media data from the

Stream Server by using the information contained in the streaming meta data.

17. A system for streaming media data comprising:

- 5 a Stream Server for reading and sending media data in parallel to a Media Player;
- a Media Player for receiving and rendering the media data in parallel;
- 10 a Stream Server Portal for receiving at least address information of media data to be streamed and choosing a suitable Stream Server for Media Player to be selected; and
- 15 a Stream Server Controller for initiating transfer of the media data from a datastore to a server system where the Stream Server is installed and for generating a streaming meta data containing at least address information of the media data stored in the Stream Server system and address information of the Stream Server selected by the Stream Server Portal.
- 20 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the Stream Server, the Stream Server Controller, the Media Player, the datastore containing media data and the Stream Server Portal are installed on different servers and the communication between the servers is accomplished via remote calls.
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- 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the system further includes an application for gathering address information of media data to be streamed and for passing the address information to the Stream Server Portal.
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20. The system of claim 17, wherein the server system includes a cache for storing media data.

21. A Streamer Server Portal for use in a method according to claim 1 comprising:

5 a function component for receiving at least address information for media data to be streamed; and

a function component for choosing a suitable Stream Server for Media Player to be selected.

22. A Stream Server Controller for use in a method according to claim 1, comprising:

10 a function component for initiating transfer of the media data from the datastore to the server system where the Stream Server is installed; and

15 a function component for generating streaming meta data and transmitting the streaming meta data to the Media Player.

23. A Stream Server Controller according to claim 22, further comprising:

20 a function component for checking whether the media data to be streamed is already stored in the storage media of the Stream Server; and

25 a function component for detecting updates of the media data to be streamed in the datastore and initiating a file transfer of the updated media data from the datastore to the storage media of the Stream Server.

24. A computer program product stored in the internal memory of
a digital computer, containing parts of software code to execute
the method of claim 1 when the program product is running on the
computer.

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